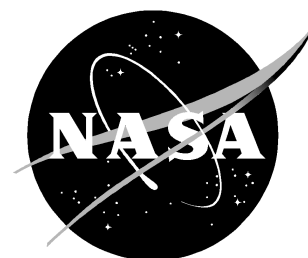


NewsRelease



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Langley Research Center
Hampton, Virginia 23681-2199

Ivelisse Gilman
(757) 864-5036
i.gilman@larc.nasa.gov

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NOTE TO EDITORS

2001 MARS ODYSSEY ARRIVAL MEDIA EVENT

NASA's 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft, launched April 7, 2001, is scheduled to arrive at Mars the evening of October 23.

A pre-arrival news conference discussing the critical orbit insertion burn will be held at 1 p.m. EDT Thursday, October 18. Langley researchers will be available to discuss the Center's role in the mission.

Langley is supporting the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the aerobraking phase of the mission. The objective of aerobraking is to use atmospheric drag to place the Odyssey spacecraft into its proper science orbit. The 70 day aerobraking phase is one of the most critical and difficult phases of the Odyssey mission.

The briefing will originate from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., and will be carried live on NASA TV with two-way question and answer capability. Local media are invited to participate from the NASA Langley newsroom located in on North Dryden Street.

Members of the media who wish to participate in the news conference should call Ivelisse Gilman at (757) 864-5036 to arrange for credentials. On Thursday, reporters should arrive at NASA Langley's main gate by 12:45 p.m. They will be met by a representative of the Public Affairs Office, badged and transported to the news room via NASA van.

Langley participants include: Richard Powell, Langley Technical Lead for Mars Odyssey; Paul Tartabini, Langley Flight Mechanics Engineer for Mars Odyssey; and John Dec, Langley Thermal Analyst for Mars Odyssey .

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Participants at JPL include: Dr. Jim Garvin, Mars Program Scientist, NASA Headquarters; David A. Spencer, Odyssey Mission Manager, Bob Mase, Odyssey Lead Navigator, JPL,; Roger Gibbs, Odyssey Deputy Project Manager, JPL; Matt Landano, Odyssey Project Manager, JPL.

NASA Television may be accessed on GE-2, Transponder 9C, C-Band, located at 85 degrees West longitude. vertical polarization, frequency of 3880MHz, with audio at 6.8 MHz

For details on Mars Odyssey, go to : <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey/>

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